

# Iran Election Update

May 28, 2013

- Over the past few days, all of the presidential candidates' election campaigns have been in high gear as they have been making the most of the state approved campaigning period. Mehr News [posted](#) photos of Mohammed Bagher Qalibaf campaigning in the city of Yazd. Gholam Ali Haddad-Adel used a press conference to [unveil](#) the programs for his presidential campaign. Candidate Saeed Jalili met with economic experts and reporters in Tehran to [discuss](#) Iran's current economic situation. And candidate Mohammad Gharazi made a campaign stop to [speak](#) with reporters at the Mehr News agency headquarters in Tehran.
- In a presidential television interview with IRIB, candidate Hassan Rouhani [said](#), "I am a moderate and I have known and have had relationships with conservatives and moderate reformers and in these 30 years my thinking has not changed and I was never radical."
- Iran's Interior Minister, Mostafa Mohammad-Najjar, [said](#) there are a little over 50 million eligible voters in this year's presidential election. Of that 50 million, 1.6 million are first-time voters. There are also 285 voting centers (around the world) for Iranians outside of Iran to vote.
- Candidate Saeed Jalili [said](#) he would welcome the endorsement of conservative Guardian Council member and leader of the Perseverance Front Ayatollah Mesbah Yazdi. "The support of such a valuable person as Ayatollah Yazdi would be my pleasure." Ayatollah Yazdi previously supported Kamran Bagheri Lankarani, but Lankarani withdrew his nomination before the Guardian Council's final vote to determine the candidates.
- Saeed Jalili met Ayatollah Yazdi in the city of Qom for almost 3 hours. Their meeting was private and when they emerged Ayatollah Yazdi [declared](#), "We hope that we can use someone like Jalili and take steps toward preserving the values of the Islamic Revolution and pursuing these goals."
- Presidential candidate and 2+1 Coalition member Ali Akbar Velayati [said](#) that his coalition will stay intact until the end of the race. It was previously thought one of the three would be nominated in order to not split the principlist vote. "We will wait until the campaigning period is over then we will review the conditions to see who we should nominate. It wouldn't be appropriate to predict the nominee at the current moment."
- Presidential candidate Hassan Rouhani [posts](#) a YouTube clip of him on his Twitter account of a "viral video setting the record straight on Iran's nuclear program" during an interview with State Television. The 5 minute long video has English subtitles. He also posted a [picture](#) on his Twitter account of himself meeting with "ordinary Iranians" on the streets of Tehran.
- In an interview with Alef News, member of parliament Ali Motahari [explains](#) that the Guardian Council should have explained to the people why former President Hashemi Rafsanjani was disqualified and he also expressed his concern with the power of extremists within the country. "Rafsanjani's disqualification hurt the revolution and made the Zionists and western countries happy because they do not want to see Iran's domestic politics in order...it was a historic failure on their part and it only hurt them (Guardian Council) and not Rafsanjani." Motahari later warned against choosing a "radical" president, saying he personally considered candidate Saeed Jalili to be radical.

By Hanif Zarrabi-Kashani



Additional Iran Election Updates are available [here](#).

Election date is June 14, 2013.